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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/831,223	07/19/2001	Henning Zschau	RBL0076	2652

7590 02/01/2002

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Fort Wayne, IN 46802

EXAMINER

DONOVAN, LINCOLN D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2832

DATE MAILED: 02/01/2002

8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/831,223

Applicant(s)
Zschau

Examiner
Lincoln Donovan

Art Unit
2832



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 17) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 3, 7 20) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 2832

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Specification

2. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a **single paragraph** on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 50 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

A new abstract on a separate sheet is required.

3. The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout and content for patent applications. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

The following order or arrangement is preferred in framing the specification and, except for the reference to "Microfiche Appendix" and the drawings, each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as section headings. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

Art Unit: 2832

- (a) Title of the Invention.
- (b) Cross-References to Related Applications.
- (c) Statement Regarding Federally Sponsored Research or Development.
- (d) Reference to a "Microfiche Appendix" (see 37 CFR 1.96).
- (e) Background of the Invention.
 - 1. Field of the Invention.
 - 2. Description of the Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (f) Brief Summary of the Invention.
- (g) Brief Description of the Several Views of the Drawing(s).
- (h) Detailed Description of the Invention.
- (I) Claim or Claims (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (j) Abstract of the Disclosure (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) Drawings.
- (l) Sequence Listing (see 37 CFR 1.821-1.825).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 1, line 1, the phrase "with coupling element" is unclear. The phrase "consisting of at least one..." is unclear. Applicant should correct as "comprising at least one..." unless applicant only intends that there is just one spring bracket. In line 3, the phrase "which over an actuator" is unclear. Claims 2-20 inherit the defects of the parent claim.

Art Unit: 2832

Regarding claim 2, applicant should clarify the “electrical” connection of the plastic coupling element.

Regarding claim 3, applicant should clarify the structure of the locking mechanism.

Regarding claim 4, applicant should clarify what is intended by the coupling element by “constructed rigid.”

Regarding claim 5, there is no antecedent basis for “allocated receiving openings.”

Regarding claim 6, applicant should clarify what is intended by “*which are suited* for the receiving of contact springs.”

Regarding claim 7, there is no antecedent basis for “the receiving openings,” “the respective spring brackets” or “the face side.”

Regarding claim 8, there is no antecedent basis for “the two spring brackets” or “the grooves.”

Regarding claim 9, there is no antecedent basis for “the two spring brackets” “the means that first at least one double contact spring” or “the spring brackets.”

Regarding claim 11, applicant should clarify what is intended by “coupling of the coupling element is constructed locking and again releasable.”

Regarding claim 12, applicant should clarify what is intended by the coupling element by “constructed rigid.”

Regarding claims 13-15, in line 3, applicant should clarify “which (partition wall) lateral.”
In line 4, there is no antecedent basis for “allocated receiving openings.”

Art Unit: 2832

Regarding claims 16-20, there is no antecedent basis for “the receiving openings,” “the respective spring brackets” or “the face side.”

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-4 and 9-13, as best able to be understood in view of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishi et al. [US 5,081,436] in view of Fausch [US 6,081,177].

Nishi et al. disclose an electromagnetic relay comprising:

- a plurality of “spring brackets” [17a, 17b];
- a drive device [2];
- at least one active spring contact [32];
- at least one passive spring contact [35] mounted in the spring brackets; and
- a insulative rigid actuator block [28] acting on the at least one active spring contact.

Nishi et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for: the drive device being mounted on one of the “spring brackets.”

Fausch discloses a relay having a base spring support with an actuator mounted therein.

Art Unit: 2832

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to mount the actuator drive in one of the "spring brackets" of Nishi et al., as suggested by Fausch, for the purpose of facilitating assembly.

Fausch discloses an actuator assembly being lockable (by means of the actuating magnet) in a contact position and releasable therefrom.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the locking design of Fausch in Nishi et al., for the purpose of maintaining a switching state.

Nishi et al. discloses the active and passive contacts being offset from each other by 90 degrees.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 5-9 and 14-20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Lincoln Donovan whose telephone number is (703) 308-3111.

The fax number for this Group is (703)308-7724.

Application/Control Number: 09/831,223

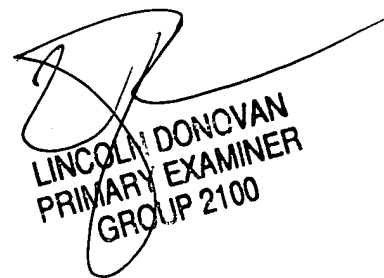
Page 7

Art Unit: 2832

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0956.

LDD

January 30, 2002



LINCOLN DONOVAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 2100